

MINUTES
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

Commissioners Present: Bruce Abrams, Joyce Singer Abrams, Gracia Molina de Pick (6:10), Mark Dillon, Tiffany Harrison (5:50), Shonee Henry, Gary Lynn, George Mitrovich, Teresa Oyos

Excused: Mary Alcock, Mitz Lee, Carolina Alcoser Ramos, Roberto Shim

Absent: Nicole Murray Ramirez

Staff: Danell Scarborough, Executive Director; Pam Holmberg, Labor Relations

Chair Abrams called the 228th meeting of the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission (HRC) to order at 5:40 PM

- PRESENTATION

Hoover High School Student Essay on Cesar Chavez - Norma Sandoval, a teacher from Hoover High School, and two of her students provided the Commission with a quick overview of their activities in the Cesar Chavez club and their upcoming Peace Week celebration. Peace Week celebrates the ten core values of Cesar Chavez and the diversity of the school. As part of the celebration they invited all of the Commissioners to come to the school on March 23. Each member will be assigned to a classroom for 30 minutes to give a presentation on themselves and their outlook and to take questions from the students.

Reports from the CAHRO Statewide Training Conference, February 7, 2011 – The Commissioners felt the CAHRO Conference was a great learning experience. Besides learning new information and techniques in the seminars they enjoyed the opportunity to meet like minded people from around the State and understand the workings and composition of their Commissions. The train ride up and back also gave them an opportunity to visit with their fellow Commissioners and get to know them better. Chair Abrams thanked Executive Director Scarborough for all the hard work she put into making everything run smoothly.

- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Henry to approve the January 19 minutes.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abrams.

The motion passed unanimously

- **BUSINESS**

Old Business

Update on redesign of Commission logo and website

Commissioner Mitrovich said the new design should be ready for unveiling at the March meeting. He will invite the gentleman that designed it to present it at next month's meeting.

New Business

Consider letters from Commission

- To Representative Ray King regarding radicalization hearings
- To Secretary Clinton regarding international human rights treaty
- To Mayor and Council regarding impact of Police Department Cuts

The Commission had a brief discussion of all of the letters and a few minor changes. The Commission approved sending all three letters out.

Development of action steps on top priorities from Commission's 2011 Planning and Priority Setting Workshop

At the workshop the Commission determined that the priorities for 2011 would be Education Disparities, Immigrant Rights, Homelessness and Hate Motivated Behaviors. There was discussion of what actions the Commission would like to take this year to address these subjects and how to achieve those goals. On all subjects they would like to investigate what organizations are currently working on these issues and how they team with them to work towards a common goal. A task force will be set up for each subject to investigate the best way to achieve the Commission's goals. Commissioners Abrams, de Pick, Lee and Mitrovich will serve on the Education Disparities task force, Commissioners de Pick, Dillon, Lee and Oyos will serve on Immigrant Rights, Chair Abrams and Commissioners Abrams, Lee, Oyos and Shim will form the task force on Homelessness and Commissioners Dillon, Harrison, Henry and Lynn will serve on the Hate Motivated Behaviors Task Force. Executive Director Scarborough will email all of the Commissioners to see if there are Task Forces they would like to join.

- **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Resignation of Commissioner Carolina Alcoser Ramos Carolina Alcoser Ramos submitted her resignation to the Commission.

Coordinating legal intern resources for HRC discrimination complaint duties

Chair Abrams and Executive Director Scarborough have been looking into getting a legal intern to help the Commission with discrimination complaints. They hope to have a legal student from USD on board in the next month. The intern will help connect the people who file complaints with the entities that can provide a solution.

Working with Councilmember Emerald's office to assist UMI

Chair Abrams reported that he had contacted Councilmember Emerald's office to see if they could assist UMI with resources. He hasn't been successful so far in getting help but will contact UMI and keep working to find assistance for them.

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Overview of Freedom Riders 50th Anniversary events (VIP Reception March 24, 2011, 6:00 PM, San Diego Public Library)

Executive Director Scarborough invited the Commission to attend the special reception on March 24. The reception will include a traveling exhibit, clips from an upcoming PBS documentary and local Civil Rights activists speaking on their experiences as Freedom Riders.

Chavez Breakfast – March 28 There are five seats available at Commissioner de Pick's table for the breakfast. Chair Abrams and Commissioners Henry, Lee and Oyos and Executive Director Scarborough will be attending.

Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast – May 20

Executive Director Scarborough has secured a table at the breakfast. Please contact her to arrange for tickets.

- **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

San Diego Immigrants Rights Consortium (SDIRC) Update

This issue will be discussed at the next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.